

Children's Liturgy guide

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Gospel: John 9:1-41

"I am the light of the world". What a statement and what a truth! When darkness is broken by a candle or torch, it brings comfort and can take away anxiety. Not many of us can relate to the man in this encounter. Born blind – and then his eyes, opened to the wonders of nature. Imagine seeing your parents for the first time!

An amazing miracle and a demonstration of God's power to heal. It was very common in those times to think that physical disabilities had come from personal sin or sin of parents. Jesus shared that his blindness was not about sin but an opportunity for God's works to be revealed in him.

This is a long passage of Scripture with a lot in it but let's celebrate the miracle of a man born blind receiving his sight, and let's contemplate the verses that talk about spiritual blindness. We can think we know what life is about and the best way to live, but we are, in-fact, blind to way that God wants us to live. Those who admit their weaknesses, and trust in God, will be granted sight (in a spiritual sense). Jesus gave the blind man physical healing and knowledge in response to his sincere faith. Those who are arrogant and presume they already know run the risk of stumbling.

Sharing Scripture – John 9:1-41

Read John 9:1-11 to the children. If you have an active group, it might be a good idea to act out the encounter so that the children get to immerse themselves into the piece of Scripture.

Explain to the children that this man had been born blind, and this encounter shows us how powerful and compassionate God is. He receives his sight and worships God.

Explain that sometimes we might say that someone is 'blind' to something, but it doesn't mean that someone is physically blind. It means that they don't understand. When Jesus says in verse 5 that he is 'the light of the world' he is talking about how he can bring light into a dark world and bring understanding where there is ignorance. Tell the children that when we trust in God it's like a torch: lighting the way ahead and bringing understanding to the world we live in.

As the official international relief agency for the Catholic Church in Scotland, SCIAF helps to shine a light on injustices happening around the world. We do this by working with partners to address the needs of those living in poverty and sharing their stories with people here in Scotland.

Click [here](#) to watch the WEE BOX video to see more about our work in Zambia

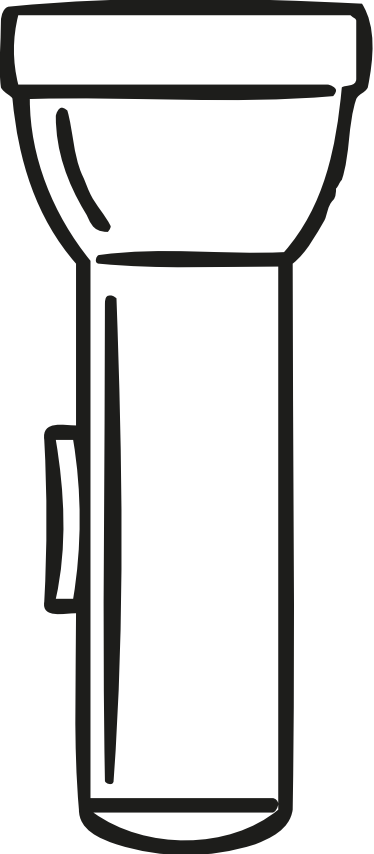
Respond

Print out the next page and give one to each child. Ask them to colour in the picture and keep it as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world, and by living in the way that God wants them to live, they can spread light to others.

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

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Jesus Light of the world

John 9:5